

## **Welcome to the Legislative Update for June 12, 2015**

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep older Arizonans and advocates of aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight federal legislation or activities affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The ***Legislative Update*** is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

Between legislative sessions, we strive to offer an abbreviated version of the ***Legislative Update*** on a monthly basis with a focus on federal legislation or activities and local, state or national resources and information.

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### **STATE FISCAL NEWS**

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee/JLBC**

***JLBC - Monthly Fiscal Highlights May 2015*** [HERE](#)

According to the May report, “*Compared to the enacted budget, overall (FY 2015) collections are \$233.1 million above forecast.*”

***Tracking Arizona’s Recover May 2015*** [HERE](#)

**Governor’s** news release regarding upgrade of Arizona’s credit rating [HERE](#)

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### **FEDERAL OVERVIEW**

**Updates:**

**S.Con.Res.11**

**An original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2017**

Introduced on 3/20/15 by Senator Michael B. Enzi (WY)

**5/6/2015 Message on the Senate action sent to the House.** [H.Rept.114-96 Conference Report](#)

**H.R.1190**

## **Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2015**

6/2/2015 Committee Consideration by House Ways and Means; ordered to be reported by the Yeas and Nays 31-8.

### **H.R.1369**

## **Veterans Access to Extended Care Act of 2015**

Introduced on 3/16/2015 by Representative Jackie Walorski (IN-2)

This bill modifies the treatment of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) agreements with service providers to furnish veterans with nursing home care, adult day health care, or other extended care services.

4/29/2015 referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

### **H.R.1742**

## **Child and Elderly Missing Alert Program of 2015**

Introduced on 4/13/2015 by Representative Steve Chabot (OH-1)

Amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Attorney General to award public safety and community policing grants to eligible nonprofit organizations to assist federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing children and elderly and disabled individuals through the use of a rapid telephone and cellular alert call system. Defines an "elderly individual" as an individual 60 years of age or older.

On 5/15/2015, referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations.

### **H.Res.211**

**Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that veterans deserve the health and living standards they fought to protect.**

Introduced on 4/17/2015 by Representative Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20)

Text [here](#)

5/1/2015 referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

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**Other legislation:**

**S.1190**

**Ensuring Seniors Access to Local Pharmacies Act of 2015**

Introduced on 5/5/2015 by Senator Shelley Moore Capito (WV)

Amends part D (Voluntary Prescription Drug Benefit Program) of title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to direct any prescription drug plan that has in its network one or more pharmacies located in a health professional shortage area, in a medically underserved area or among a medically underserved population, and that provides a reduction in coinsurance or copayments for covered part D drugs, to extend to any pharmacy located in that area, or among that population, the option to be an in-network pharmacy under terms and conditions comparable to those the plan has agreed upon with other in-network pharmacies located in the area or among that population.

On 5/5/2015 read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

**S.1362**

**A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify waiver authority regarding programs of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE programs).**

Introduced on 5/18/2015 by Senator Thomas R. Carper (DE)

Text [HERE](#)

5/18/2015, read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

**S.1396**

**Value-Based Insurance Design Seniors Copayment Reduction Act of 2015**

Introduced on 5/20/2015 by Senator John Thune (SD)

To establish a demonstration program requiring the utilization of Value-Based Insurance Design in order to demonstrate that reducing the copayments or coinsurance charged to Medicare beneficiaries for selected high-value prescription medications and clinical services can increase their utilization and ultimately improve clinical outcomes, enhance beneficiary satisfaction and lower health care expenditures.

On 5/20/2015 read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

**H.R.2188**

## **Generational Residences and Nurturing Dwelling Act or the GRAND Act**

Introduced on 4/30/2015 by Representative Jose Serrano (NY-15)

Establishes in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) a program to provide assistance for each fiscal year to up to five eligible nonprofit organizations to expand the supply of specialized housing and social services for qualified elderly relatives, age 60 or older, who are raising a child of which they are not a parent either by blood or marriage.

States that nothing in this Act shall preclude a recipient of such assistance from applying for or receiving financial assistance under any other HUD program.

Provides such assistance in the form of:

- financing for the construction, reconstruction, moderate or substantial rehabilitation, or acquisition of a structure or a portion of a structure to be used as specialized housing;
- tenant-based rental (voucher) assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937 for entities meeting certain criteria for use only by qualified relatives who are raising a child and are eligible for such assistance for rental of a dwelling unit that qualifies as specialized housing;
- elderly housing project rental assistance under the Housing Act of 1959 for entities meeting certain criteria in connection with dwelling units that qualify as specialized housing and are made available for occupancy only by qualified relatives who are raising a child and are eligible for occupancy in such housing; and
- help with ongoing operational expenses of any specialized housing, including costs of supportive services required for such housing.

On 4/30/2015 referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

### **H.R.2404**

## **Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2015**

Introduced on 5/18/2015 by Representative Erik Paulsen (MN-3)

Text [HERE](#)

On 5/22/2015 referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

### **H.R.2461**

**To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under part B of the Medicare program by establishing a minimum payment amount under such part for bone mass**

**measurement.**

Introduced on 5/20/2015 by Representative Michael C. Burgess (TX-26)

Text [HERE](#)

On 5/20/2015, referred to the House Ways and Means.

## **H.R.2506**

### **Seniors' Health Care Plan Protection Act of 2015**

Introduced on 5/21/2015 by Representative Vern Buchanan (FL-16)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to delay the authority to terminate Medicare Advantage contracts for MA plans failing to achieve minimum quality ratings.

6/2/2015 ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.

## **H.R.2519**

### **Audiology Patient Choice Act of 2015**

Introduced on 5/21/2015 by Representative Lynn Jenkins (KS-2)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of audiologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing audiology services under the Medicare program, to improve access to the audiology services available for coverage under the Medicare program and to enable beneficiaries to have their choice of a qualified audiologist to provide services, and for other purposes.

Text [HERE](#)

On 5/21/2015 referred to the House Ways and Means.

## **H.R.2577**

### **Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2015**

Introduced on 5/27/2015 by Representative Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25)

Provides FY2016 appropriations to the Department of Transportation (DOT) the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and several related agencies.

6/10 Referred in Senate text [HERE](#)

On 6/9/2015 Passed House; 6/10/2015 Received in the Senate and read twice and referred

to the Committee on Appropriations.

### **H.R.2579**

#### **Securing Care for Seniors Act of 2015**

Introduced on 5/29/2015 by Representative Diane Black (TN-6)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the risk adjustment under the Medicare Advantage program and for other purposes.

On 6/2/2015, Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.

### **H.R.2633**

#### **Seniors Fraud Prevention Act of 2015**

Introduced on 6/3/2015 by Representative Theodore E. Deutch (FL-21)

To establish an advisory office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors, and for other purposes.

Text [HERE](#)

6/3/2015, referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Related bill: [S.1490](#)

### **H.R.2668**

#### **National Care Corps Act of 2015**

Introduced on 6/4/2015 by Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM-1)

To establish a National Care Corps through which qualified volunteers provide care, companionship and other services to seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Text [HERE](#)

On 6/4/2015 referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

### **H.R.2704**

#### **Community Based Independence for Seniors Act of 2015**

Introduced on June 9, 2015 by Representative Linda T. Sanchez (CA-38)

To establish a Community-Based Institutional Special Needs Plan demonstration program to target home and community-based care to eligible Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

Text [HERE](#)

6/9/2015, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Energy and Commerce

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If you want to check on the status of any federal legislation, go to <http://beta.congress.gov/> and enter the bill number or title.

Check for **active federal legislation** at this [link](#).

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### **Share your opinions with members of Congress!**

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives or Senators by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.

Links to the membership lists are provided below.

[House](#) members

[Senate](#) members

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You can contact the White House at this [link](#).

ALSO: A compilation of contact information is provided at: <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

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## **NEWS& RESOURCES**

**June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

Facts from the **National Council on Aging** [HERE](#)

*Elder Abuse and Its Impact: What You Must Know* from the **National Center on Elder**

Abuse [HERE](#)

**NOTE: Area Agency on Aging Region One** events page listing of Maricopa events [HERE](#) (Be sure to scroll down the page)

Flyer [HERE](#)

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**National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP**

[Caregiving in the U.S. 2015 Report](#)

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From **Kaiser Health News**

**Medicare and Medicaid at 50 and Beyond**

<http://kff.org/medicaremedicaid50/>

KHN Aging topics page [HERE](#)

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From **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities/NASUAD**

*Friday Updates, June 12, 2015*

**Funding Opportunity: Building Business Capacity of Senior Nutrition Programs**

Eight competitive mini-grants of \$10,000 each are being offered to Senior Nutrition Programs to better prepare them for entering into healthcare contracts. The funding and technical assistance opportunity is designed to strengthen the business acumen and align service capabilities for programs to negotiate, either directly or as a part of a bundle of community-based services, healthcare contracts. Eligible applicants are Senior Nutrition Programs that currently receive funding from the Older Americans Act for Title III Part C - Nutrition Services or Title VI Grants for Native Americans to provide meals and other nutrition services to older adults in the community. Applications are due by **Tuesday, June 30** and can be submitted through the Meals on Wheels America online grant system. [Click here](#) for more details on eligibility and the funding.

*Friday Updates, May 22, 2015*

**GAO Report Examines HCBS for Older Adults**



[Click here](#) to access the report.

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From the **National Alzheimer's Project Act**

Updated information can be found at:

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>

(Be sure to scroll up and down the page for more information.)

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From the *June 2015 Wisdom Tooth Insider*

**Tooth Wisdom Health Resources for Older Adults** [HERE](#)

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From the **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**

**Financial protection for older Americans** [HERE](#)

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New **Administration for Community Living/ACL** Organization Structure announced  
[HERE](#)

**A Profile of Older Americans 2014** found [HERE](#)

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**White House Conference on Aging** is July 13; information [HERE](#).

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**PHI** response to White House Conference's Long-Term Care Questions provided [HERE](#)

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From the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**

Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation Office of Disability, Aging and Long-Term Care Policy

## Regulatory Review of Adult Day Services

Final Report, 2014 Edition [HERE](#).

See State Regulatory Profiles [HERE](#)

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If you're interested in seeing bills tracked by the Advisory Council this past legislative session, open the FULL LIST link (below). BE SURE to click on the bill number for more information on that specific bill.

FULL LIST [Link](#)

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on a tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It does mean that the topic is something that may be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans.

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*Share your thoughts at any time!* If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your Legislators, you can voice your opinions by contacting the:

- **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 in Phoenix, 520-628-6580 in Tucson and in-state toll free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or
- The **legislator(s) from your area**. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature [website](#)** and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators*. Not sure about your congressional or legislative district? **Maps** can be found on the Arizona State Legislature website linked [here](#).

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## Arizona State Legislature Website Resources

Want to learn more about the legislative process ahead of the next session? See [Arizona Bill](#) or *Bill to Law* provided [here](#).

Learn about the budget process [here](#).

Review the Arizona Constitution [here](#).

Learn more at Frequently Asked Questions linked [here](#).

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## Results of AHCCCS Provider Rate Analysis:

<http://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/news.aspx#Provider>

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## INFORMATION & RESOURCES

### Launch of new AzLinks website

The **Division of Aging & Adult Services** announced the launch of the new website:  
[www.AZLinks.gov](http://www.AZLinks.gov).

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**Coming later this fall - Senior Action Days sponsored by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**

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## SAVE THE DATE

**2015 Elders Issues Conference, October 15, 2015**

High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff AZ

More information [HERE](#)

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Just in case you're interested

Past issues of the *Legislative Updates* are linked on the Council website at:  
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>.

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You can help circulate resource information. If you would like to submit an **educational** or **public service event** for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description and a link or pdf document to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov). Please note: we try to include resources and events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates and refrain from including fundraising or marketing materials.

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We hope you enjoy your summer!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

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If you wish to be REMOVED from or know someone who would like to be ADDED to the Update, please send an email to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov) and ask to be unsubscribed or subscribed to the **Legislative Update**.

Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

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